

Memo to file

December 30, 2003

From: Peter E. Kurtze  
Administrator, Evaluation and Registration

Re: M: 23-141  
B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

The property documented in the following MIHP form has not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The comments in the text are those of the preparer of the documentation. The State Historic Preservation Officer has neither concurred nor disagreed with those comments.

## CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: M:23-141 (PACS 9.11) Construction Date: Circa 1940

Name: B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

Location: 17024 Georgia Avenue, Olney vicinity, Montgomery County

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Yes:restricted

### Description:

The B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property is a 1½-story, 5-bay Colonial Revival-style house on the west side of Georgia Avenue in the Olney vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed circa 1940, the building is rectangular in plan with a central side-gable 1½-story main block. A 1-story side-gable recessed section is located on the south elevation of the main block, and was constructed contemporaneously with the main block. Located at the intersection of the main block and the recessed south section is a flat-roof 1-story enclosed porch covered with vinyl siding. A small 1-story shed roof addition is located on the rear elevation. The structure has an asphalt shingle roof, with two gable dormers on the front elevation. The rear elevation has a central hipped roof dormer. The building has a brick exterior which extends to grade level. The windows are wood 6/6 double-hung.

### Significance:

The B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property is a 1½-story brick Colonial Revival-style house. The land on which the house was constructed was part of a larger tract of land which extended along both sides of Georgia Avenue and was used for agricultural purposes. Ward and Cora Savage bought 28.3 hectares (69.89 acres) of land from William E. Dill in 1921. Ward and Cora Savage began subdividing the land into small residential lots along Georgia Avenue and Old Baltimore Road in the late 1920s. Frank J. Downey bought a .5 hectare (1.146 acre) parcel known as lot #12 of the Savage's unrecorded subdivision in 1936. A covenant on the deed restricted the value of a house constructed on the lot to cost no less than \$4000.00. Downey sold the lot to B. Dorsey and Mary Downey in 1937. A house was constructed on the lot circa 1940. The property was sold in 1970 to William Randolph Callender and Jane Elizabeth Burns. The property was sold once before purchased by the current owners, Erik and Karin Blitte in 1993. The property remains .5 hectares (1.146 acres) in size.

Maryland Historical Trust  
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form  
 Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property (preferred)

and/or common Blitte Property

2. Location:

street & number 17024 Georgia Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Olney ☒ vicinity of

congressional district

state

Maryland

county

Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Erik and K.W. Blitte

street & number 17024 Georgia Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town Olney

state and zip code MD 20832

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County

liber 11653

street & number Montgomery County Judicial Center

folio 518

city, town Rockville

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 2

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property is a 1½-story, 5-bay Colonial Revival-style house on the west side of Georgia Avenue in the Olney vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed circa 1940, the building is rectangular in plan with a central side-gable 1½-story main block. A 1-story side-gable recessed section is located on the south elevation of the main block, and was constructed contemporaneously with the main block. Located at the intersection of the main block and the recessed south section is a flat-roof 1-story enclosed porch covered with vinyl siding. A small 1-story shed roof addition is located on the rear elevation.

The structure has an asphalt shingle roof, with two gable dormers on the front elevation. The rear elevation has a central hipped roof dormer. The building has a brick exterior which extends to grade level. The windows are wood 6/6 double-hung. A brick interior chimney is centrally located within the roof of the main block, while a wood stove flue extends through the roof of the enclosed porch on the south elevation. A projecting front-gable entrance vestibule is located on the front elevation and a wood deck is located on the rear elevation.

The east, or front facade has a central entrance including a 6-panel wood door with 7-light anlight. The entrance is flanked by double-hung windows with vinyl shutters. The second story has a single double-hung window in each of the two gable dormers. The enclosed porch on the south elevation has two 6/1 vinyl double-hung windows on the front elevation.

The first story of the south elevation of the main block is obscured by the south wing and enclosed porch. The second story has a 6-light wood panel door and a double-hung window. The first story of the south section has a double-hung window with a circular window in the gable end. The enclosed porch has a vinyl 6/1 double-hung window and a pair of 15-light sliding glass doors. Above the sliding doors is a small gable roof entry porch supported by two wood posts. On the roof of the enclosed porch is an iron railing which extends along its perimeter. The south elevation of the rear addition has a vinyl sliding glass door.

The west, or rear elevation has a garage bay with a wood overhead door and a 3-light awning window in the basement level. The first story has three double-hung windows and the rear addition has one vinyl 1/1 double-hung window with vinyl shutters. The second story has a hipped roof dormer with a double-hung window. The rear elevation of the south section has a pair of 15-light vinyl sliding doors. Wood steps connect the sliding doors to the rear wood deck.

The north elevation has a central 1-story canted bay with three double-hung windows and a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The basement level of the bay has a 3-light awning window. The gable end of the elevation has a single double-hung window. The north elevation of the rear addition has a wood 6/6 double-hung window.

There is one outbuilding associated with this property. The outbuilding is a chicken house located west of the house. Oriented to the south, the building has a metal-covered shed roof, wood siding and is supported by concrete piers. Constructed circa 1940, the building has double wood doors with a ramp and five 9-light casement windows on the south elevation. The east elevation has a vertical wood door.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

ADDRESS: 17024 Georgia Avenue, Olney vicinity, Montgomery County

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## 7. Description (Continued)

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The property is located on the west side of Georgia Avenue, with residential property to the north and west and a religious property to the south. There are residential properties of similar age to the north, a modern residential development to the west, separated from the B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property by a strip of forested land, and the Olney Church of Christ to the south.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates Circa 1940

Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property is a 1½-story brick Colonial Revival-style house. The land on which the house was constructed was part of a larger tract of land which extended along both sides of Georgia Avenue and was used for agricultural purposes. Ward and Cora Savage bought 28.3 hectares (69.89 acres) of land from William E. Dill in 1921. Ward and Cora Savage began subdividing the land into small residential lots along Georgia Avenue and Old Baltimore Road in the late 1920s. Frank J. Downey bought a .5 hectare (1.146 acre) parcel known as lot #12 of the Savage's unrecorded subdivision in 1936. A covenant on the deed restricted the value of a house constructed on the lot to cost no less than \$4000.00. Frank J. Downey had already purchased a lot from Ward and Cora Savage and constructed a house in 1933 at 17111 Old Baltimore Road (M:23-137, PACS 9.7). Downey sold the lot to B. Dorsey and Mary Downey in 1937. A house was constructed on the lot circa 1940. The property was sold in 1970 to William Randolph Callender and Jane Elizabeth Burns. The property was sold once before purchased by the current owners, Erik and Karin Blitte in 1993. The property remains .5 hectares (1.146 acres) in size.

The B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property is located in the Olney vicinity. The settlement of Olney began before 1800 as a cross-roads village at the intersection of Brookeville/Washington Pike Road (now Georgia Avenue - MD 97) and Sandy Spring/Mechanicsville Road (now Olney-Sandy Spring Road - MD 108). The initial name for the area was Fair Hill, however it soon became known as Mechanicsville, for the large number of craftsman and artisans who settled at the cross-roads. Olney became the official name of the community in 1851. Olney's importance throughout the nineteenth century derived from its ability to provide goods and services to travelers and the surrounding agricultural region. In 1865, Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland shows several businesses, a seminary, schoolhouse and Episcopal Church. Most of the structures were destroyed by fire or demolished for road construction during the twentieth century. Two structures which remain of the historic village of Olney are the St. John's Episcopal Church (1842) and the Olney House (1841) (Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet-Nomination Form: Olney Historic District).

Circa 1940, B. Dorsey and Mary Downey constructed a Colonial Revival-style house on their property. Popular in the years from 1880 to 1955, the Colonial Revival style resulted from a rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival dwellings were drawn predominantly from Georgian and Federal styles; secondary influences included Dutch Colonial and

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

ADDRESS: 17024 Georgia Avenue, Olney vicinity, Montgomery County

## 8. Significance (Continued)

English Postmedieval types. Late nineteenth century examples of Colonial Revival were often asymmetrical and exhibited a combination of Queen Anne features, such as turrets and wide porches, and Colonial features such as Palladian windows and Adamesque swags or urns. Examples built from 1915 to 1935 reflected colonial precedents more closely, while those built after World War II simplified the style, with details which only suggested rather than duplicated the original examples. Various sub-styles, such as the Dutch Colonial Revival, were popular during the early to mid-twentieth century.

Colonial Revival houses are usually strictly rectangular in plan with few projections and have symmetrical facades. They range from one to three stories with hipped, side-gable, cross-gable, or gambrel roofs. Clapboard is the most popular sheathing material, although brick is not uncommon. After World War II, colonial homes frequently featured a brick-sided first story with an overhanging wood-sided second story. In more elaborate homes, a hipped roof is often topped with a flat deck and balustrade or a cupola. Pedimented doorways and fanlights are common. Some pediments evolved into porticos with slender columns. The typical form of the windows is rectangular with double-hung sash. Palladian windows are common on more sophisticated dwellings. The addition of side porches, terraces and sunrooms are modern features common to Colonial Revival homes (McAlester 1984, 321-6).

### National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1940, the B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the house is a common building type which suffers from a loss of architectural integrity. The side porch has been enclosed and a rear addition was constructed (possibly an enclosure of a rear porch). Finally, preliminary studies conducted for this project indicate the need for further assessment of the archaeological potential of this property. Therefore, no evaluation under Criterion D is being conducted at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility Not Recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer, OPS: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Survey No. M:23-141(PACS 9.11)

See Attached

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name Sandy Spring Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state                      code   county   code

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state                      code   county   code

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title   Tim Tamburrino

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organization   P.A.C. Spero & Company

date   May 1998

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street & number   40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone   (410) 296-1635

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city or town   Baltimore

state   Maryland

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

ADDRESS: 17024 Georgia Avenue, Olney vicinity, Montgomery County

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. 1968. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company.
- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. 1984. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1990. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. 1962. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, Inc.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Liebs, Chester H. 1985. Mainstreet to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little Brown & Co.
- Martenet, Simon J. [1865] 1975. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet - Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service. Olney Historic District, Capsule Summary (M:23-98).
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

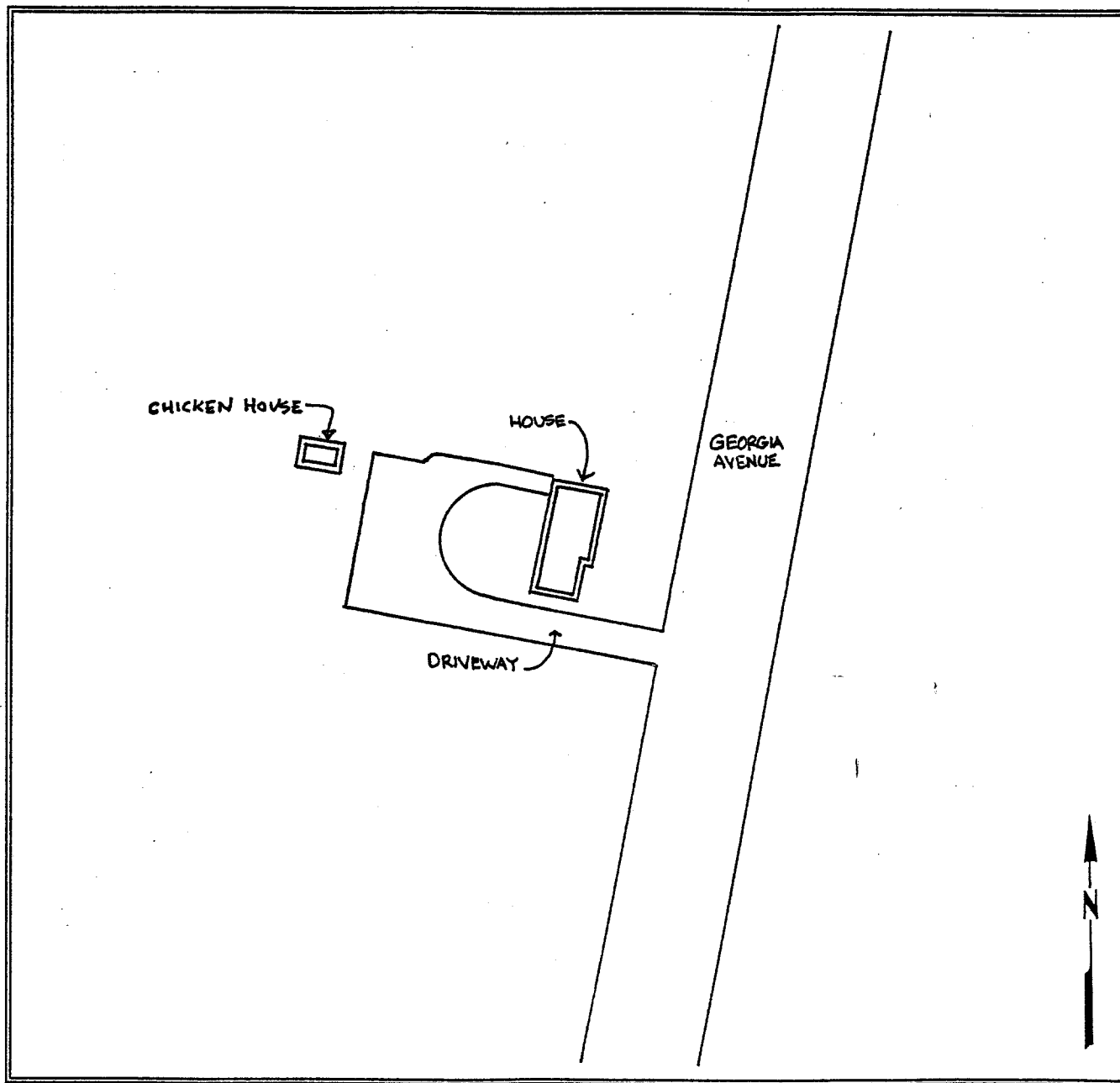
RESOURCE NAME: B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

ADDRESS: 17024 Georgia Avenue, Olney vicinity, Montgomery County

## 10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)

ADDRESS: 17024 Georgia Avenue, Olney vicinity, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period (s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building(s)

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

suburban

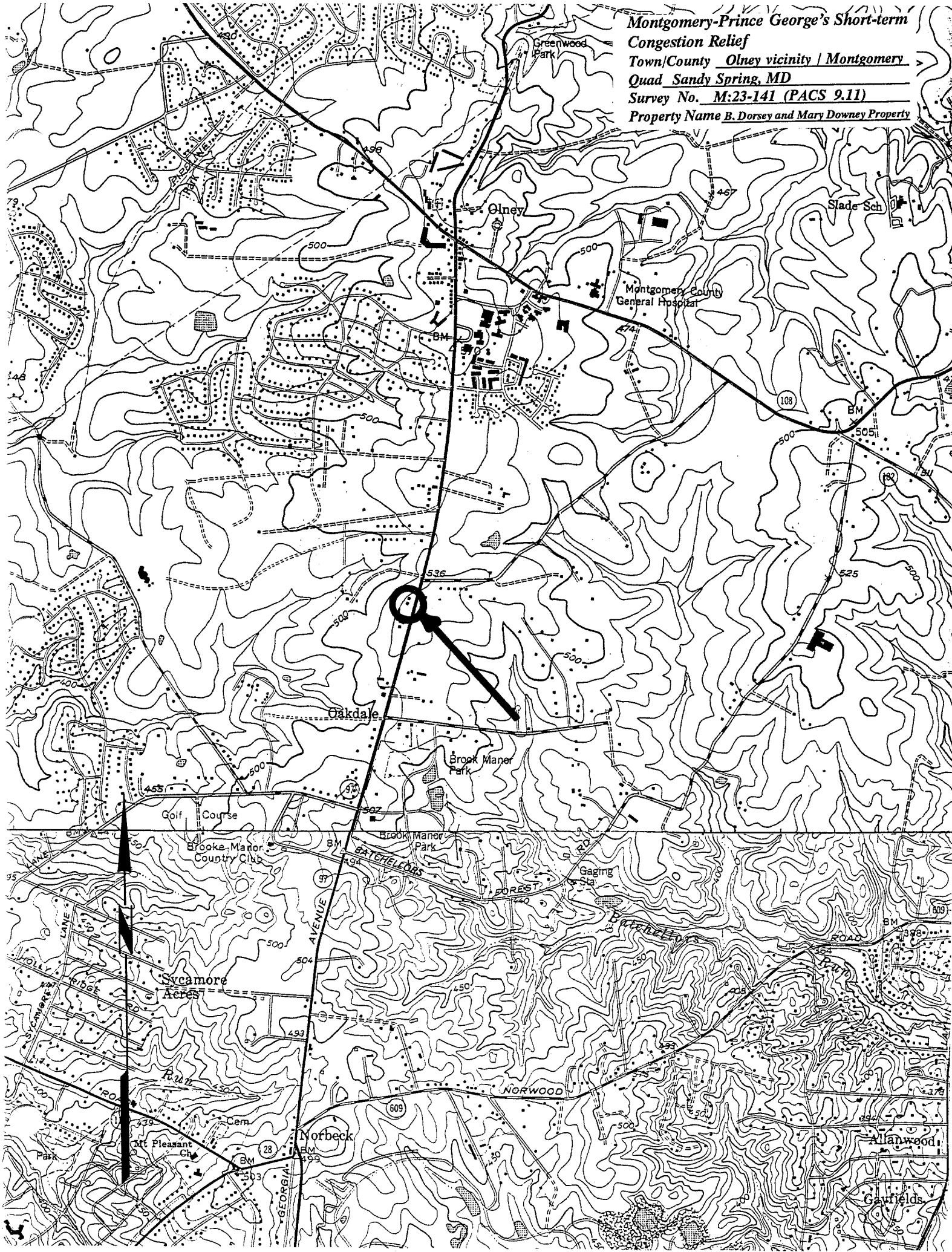
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

none

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term  
Congestion Relief  
Town/County Olney vicinity / Montgomery  
Quad Sandy Spring, MD  
Survey No. M:23-141 (PACS 9.11)  
Property Name B. Dorsey and Mary Downey Property





M-23-141

B. DORSEY & MAXY DOWNEY PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

RECEIVED

MARYLAND SHIP

FRONT ELEVATION

1/10



M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNNEY PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TANBUNKINO

4-98

PROPERTY

MARYLAND 5410

SOUTHEAST CORNER

2110





M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TANBUKINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPD

SOUTH ELEVATION

3/10



M-23+141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNNEY PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

MARYLAND SUPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER

4/10



M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBORINO

4-98

DOF 0071 N M 4-12

MARYLAND SHPO

REAR ELEVATION

5/10



M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TANBURNO

4-98

0090721

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST CORNER

6/10





M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBUK'NO

4-98

0090271 N N N N

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

7/10



M-23-141

B. DOKEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98 1090271 NNN

MARYLAND S&PO

NORTHEAST CORNER

8110



M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98 0090271 H H H 27

MARYLAND STIPO

SHED, VIEW FROM WEST

9/10



M-23-141

B. DORSEY + MARY DOWNEY PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD  
TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98.0090221 NNNN2

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED, VIEW FROM NORTH  
10/10.